[19th May 1954

Payment of wages to the workers of the Kaleswara Mills, Coimbatore.

* 930 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the management of the Kaleswara Mills of Coimbatore did not pay wages to the workers since January 1954 violating the Payment of Wages Act, 1936;

(*b*) whether the labourers have approached the Government for action under the Payment of Wages Act; and

(*c*) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Secretary of the Union has filed a group application to the Commissioner of Labour in Form ' B ' under section 15 of the Payment of Wages Act claiming the arrears of wages due to the workers of the Kaleswara Mills, Limited, Coimbatore, for the month of January 1954.

" (*c*) The application was received in the office of the Commissioner of Labour on 22nd February 1954 and was posted for hearing at Coimbatore on the 26th March 1954. On the day of hearing, the Secretary of the Union told the authority that the wages claimed had been paid on 23rd March 1954. The authority ordered the employer to pay costs to the Secretary and the employer did so."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the mill management has given any notice regarding the temporary closure of the mills and may I also know from the Labour Minister whether the management has paid the wages according to the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

Fixation of the maximum number of Judges for the Madras High Court.

* 928 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the President has fixed the maximum number of Judges for the Madras High Court consequent on the separation of the Andhra High Court;

(*b*) if so, the maximum number fixed; and

(*c*) whether the Government have made any suggestions to the President in this connexion and if so, the number suggested by them?